

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action mailed August 25, 2005, claims 1-3, 5-9 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakabayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,097,285) in view of Teruo Hieda (JP-174893); and claims 4 and 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakabayashi et al. in view of Teruo Hieda and further in view of Schrock et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,923,908). The Examiner also takes Official Notice that video cameras are capable of being connected or disconnected to/from external devices. The foregoing rejections and Official Notice taken by the Examiner are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 12 and claims 2, 7, 9 and 11 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10 and 12 are currently pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The features of cancelled claims 2, 7, 9 and 11 have been incorporated into independent claims 1, 6, 8, 10 and 12 respectively. Further, claim 5 has been amended to recite similar features as those of amended claim 1.

Neither of the foregoing references, individually or combined, discuss "a control unit monitoring a button for instructing an execution of taking a photograph of an image, detecting depression of the button, starting up said timer if said button is depressed continuously for a first predetermined period of time or longer after detecting the depression of the button, and taking the photograph of the image after said timer has counted a second predetermined period of time, wherein said control unit, when a depressing time of said button is less than the first predetermined period of time, takes the photograph of image immediately after releasing said button from being depressed," as recited in amended claim 1, for example.

Wakabayashi et al. discusses a camera with a self-timer, whereby the self-timer causes an exposure device to effect the photographing operation after the counting of a predetermined time. A first state causes the exposure device to effect the photographing operation only once, and a second state causes the exposure device to effect the photographing operation plural times in response to the manipulation of the number (see Abstract).

Teruo Hieda discusses an image pickup device generating control signals by a single white-balance switch for two different systems. If the white-balance over switch is pressed for a time period shorter than a pre-set time period, the mode can be switched from a setting mode to a tracking mode and vice versa. If the white-balance switch is pressed for a time period longer than the pre-set time period, the tracking mode may be held and the mode may be switched to the setting mode for the pre-set time period (see pages 2-4 of the Translation).

Shrock et al. discusses a camera having a touch sensitive control and a shutter. As shown in FIG. 2, the user slides a finger from the first to the second position to operate the shutter.

The Applicants respectfully submit that in the present invention, "when a depressing time of said button is less than the first predetermined period of time" as recited in claim 1, for example, the processing system "takes the photograph of image immediately after releasing said button from being depressed" also recited in claim 1.

In contrast, in Teruo Hieda the operation of pressing the white balance switch for the time period shorter than a predetermined time period is performed, results in different functions being performed, such as "change-over from the setting mode to the tracking mode" and "change-over from the tracking mode to the setting mode" are alternately performed.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

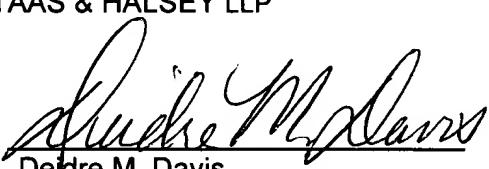
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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